SECRET
WARS
2099
DAVID
SLINEY
FABELA
MARVEL
004

NEW YORK IS NO MORE! IN ITS PLACE STANDS NUEVA YORK, A TOWERING METROPOLIS FILLED WITH NEW INCARNATIONS OF THE HEROES OF THE PAST! TAKING ON THE MANTLES OF SUCH HEROES AS CAPTAIN AMERICA, IRON MAN, AND HAWKEYE, THESE NEW AVENGERS FIGHT FOR TRUTH, JUSTICE, AND MEGACORPORATIONS LIKE ALCHEMAX. THIS IS

SECRET WARS 2099

THE MULTIVERSE WAS DESTROYED! THE HEROES OF EARTH-616 AND EARTH-1610 WERE POWERLESS TO SAVE IT! NOW ALL THAT REMAINS IS BATTLEWORLD: A MASSIVE PATCHWORK PLANET COMPOSED OF THE FRAGMENTS OF WORLDS THAT NO LONGER EXIST, MAINTAINED BY THE IRON WILL OF ITS GOD AND MASTER, VICTOR VON DOOM! EACH REGION IS A DOMAIN UNTO ITSELF!

IN ONE SUCH DOMAIN, IN A FUTURISTIC METROPOLIS CALLED NUEVA YORK, THE AVENGERS ARE OWNED AND OPERATED BY ALCHEMAX, A MASSIVE CORPORATION THAT CONTROLS SUPERHUMAN ACTIVITY.

WHEN AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE ON CAPTAIN AMERICA'S LIFE, THE AVENGERS BEGAN AN INVESTIGATION AND CROSSED PATHS WITH THE DEFENDERS, A GROUP OF HEROES OPERATING OUTSIDE OF ALCHEMAX'S CONTROL.

MIGUEL STONE, THE CEO OF ALCHEMAX, ORDERED THEIR IMMEDIATE ARREST TO THE DISMAY OF CAPTAIN AMERICA, WHO NOW FINDS HERSELF HAVING TO CHOSE A SIDE.

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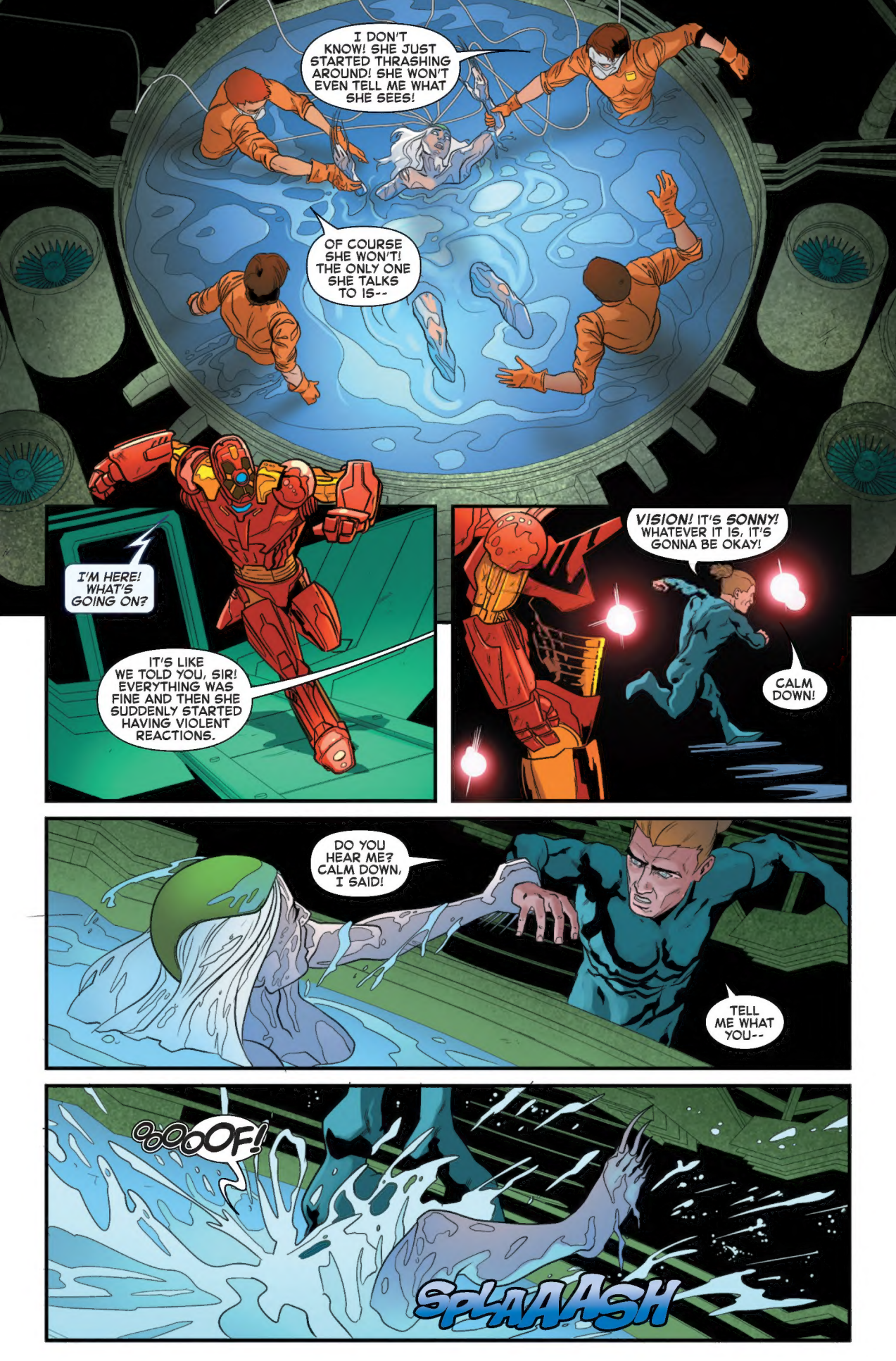
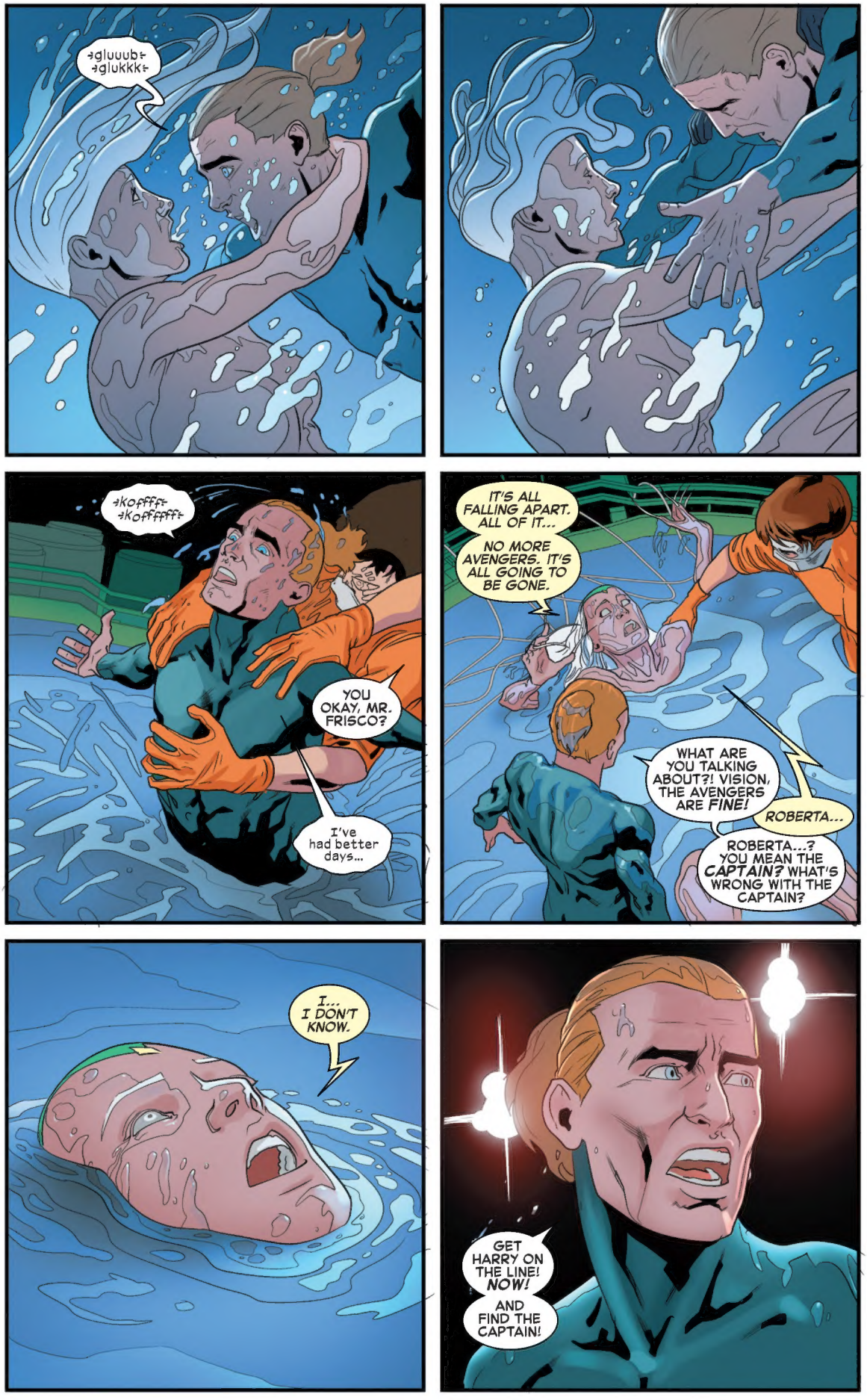
ALCHEMAX, HEADQUARTERS OF THE AVENGERS. THE YEAR 2099.
I TOLD MIGUEL I WOULD GIVE UP DRINKING.
NOT SO WELL.
HOW DID YOU DO IT?
HOW DID THAT WORK OUT FOR YOU?
DO WHAT?
CAPTIVATE THE VALKYRIE? WHAT SAID YOU TO ENGAGE HER?
I WOULD TRULY LIKE TO KNOW.
WHY? YOU MUST HAVE WOMEN AT YOUR DISPOSAL.
YOU ARE A MUSCLED GOD. YOU MUST BE BEATING THEM AWAY WITH A STICK.
NAY. MODERN WOMEN ARE A MYSTERY TO ME. NOTHING I SAY SATISFIES THEM.
WOMEN NO LONGER WANT TO BE SWEPT OFF THEIR FEET.
OF COURSE NOT. THEY WISH TO BE ENGAGED. MENTALLY STIMULATED.
YOU MEAN LIKE...CARD TRICKS?
NO! NOT CARD TRICKS! SELECT TOPICS THAT INTRIGUE THEM. DISCUSS MATTERS WITH THEM.
AND IF THAT DOESN'T WORK?
FEATS OF STRENGTH.
THAT I CAN DO.
HERCULES!

ONE SIDE. WE'RE HERE TO ARREST THE SUB-MARINER.
ARREST HIM? FOR WHAT? HE MAY BE A BIT OF AN OAF, BUT HE IS NOT SO BAD, REALLY.
I APPRECIATE THAT. I THINK.
WE WEREN'T GIVEN REASONS, SIR. JUST ORDERS FROM MR. STONE HIMSELF TO ARREST HIM AND HIS ENTIRE TEAM OF DEFENDERS.
WELL... THAT MAKES SENSE.
STEP ASIDE, SIR. WE DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO BRING YOU IN T--
KRAAASH

SIR! BETA SQUAD IS REPORTING A PROBLEM WITH APPREHENDING THE SUB-MARINER!
APPARENTLY HERCULES IS OFFERING RESISTANCE.
OH, FOR...
WIDOW, HAWK, GET DOWN THERE. SWEET-TALK HIM, TANIA. WE DON'T NEED A FULL-BLOWN BATTLE IN THE BUILDING.
SIR, I CANNOT SAY I'M ENAMORED OF THIS PROTOCOL.
I PROMISED THE DEFENDERS THEY COULD LEAVE. I GAVE THEM MY WORD.
AND MY WORD OUTRANKS YOURS.
MR. STONE, WE'RE TAKING THEM PRISONERS! AND THEY'RE HEROES!
NOT IF THEY DON'T WORK FOR US.
MR. STONE, YOUR FATHER...
I'LL CALL HIM BACK! WHEN HELL FREEZES OVER!
NO, HE'S *HERE*.
OH, PERFECT.
SIR, PLEASE LISTEN TO WHAT I'M SAYING. I BELIEVE THESE ARE FUNDAMENTALLY GOOD PEOPLE.
I KNOW THE LAW, BUT ISN'T THERE A WAY TO--
DISMISSED.
BUT... BUT ISN'T... I...
I SAID *DISMISSED.*
SIR.

CAPTAIN. GOOD DAY.
CAPT--?
AH. TRANSITIONING. OF COURSE.
DAD, THIS IS A BAD TIME.
I JUST WANTED TO TALK. YOU NEVER HAVE TIME TO TALK.
I'M BUSY RUNNING THE COMPANY YOU HANDED TO ME.
HANDED? THAT YOU TOOK, AS I RECALL.
NO. NO, THIS IS...
THIS IS WRONG.
HARRY? HARRY, HELP ME. I...
I DON'T NEED HELP. I NEED...
WAAM
I PROMISED! I *GAVE MY WORD!* MY WORD HAS TO MEAN SOMETHING!
AMERICA'S WORD HAS TO MEAN SOMETHING...!
IT... I...HAVE TO...
ASSEMBLE.
"WHAT THE SHOCK IS WRONG WITH HER?"


I DON'T KNOW! SHE JUST STARTED THRASHING AROUND! SHE WON'T EVEN TELL ME WHAT SHE SEES!
OF COURSE SHE WON'T! THE ONLY ONE SHE TALKS TO IS--
I'M HERE! WHAT'S GOING ON?
IT'S LIKE WE TOLD YOU, SIR! EVERYTHING WAS FINE AND THEN SHE SUDDENLY STARTED HAVING VIOLENT REACTIONS.
VISION! IT'S SONNY! WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S GONNA BE OKAY!
CALM DOWN!
DO YOU HEAR ME? CALM DOWN, I SAID!
TELL ME WHAT YOU--
OOOOF!
SPLAAASH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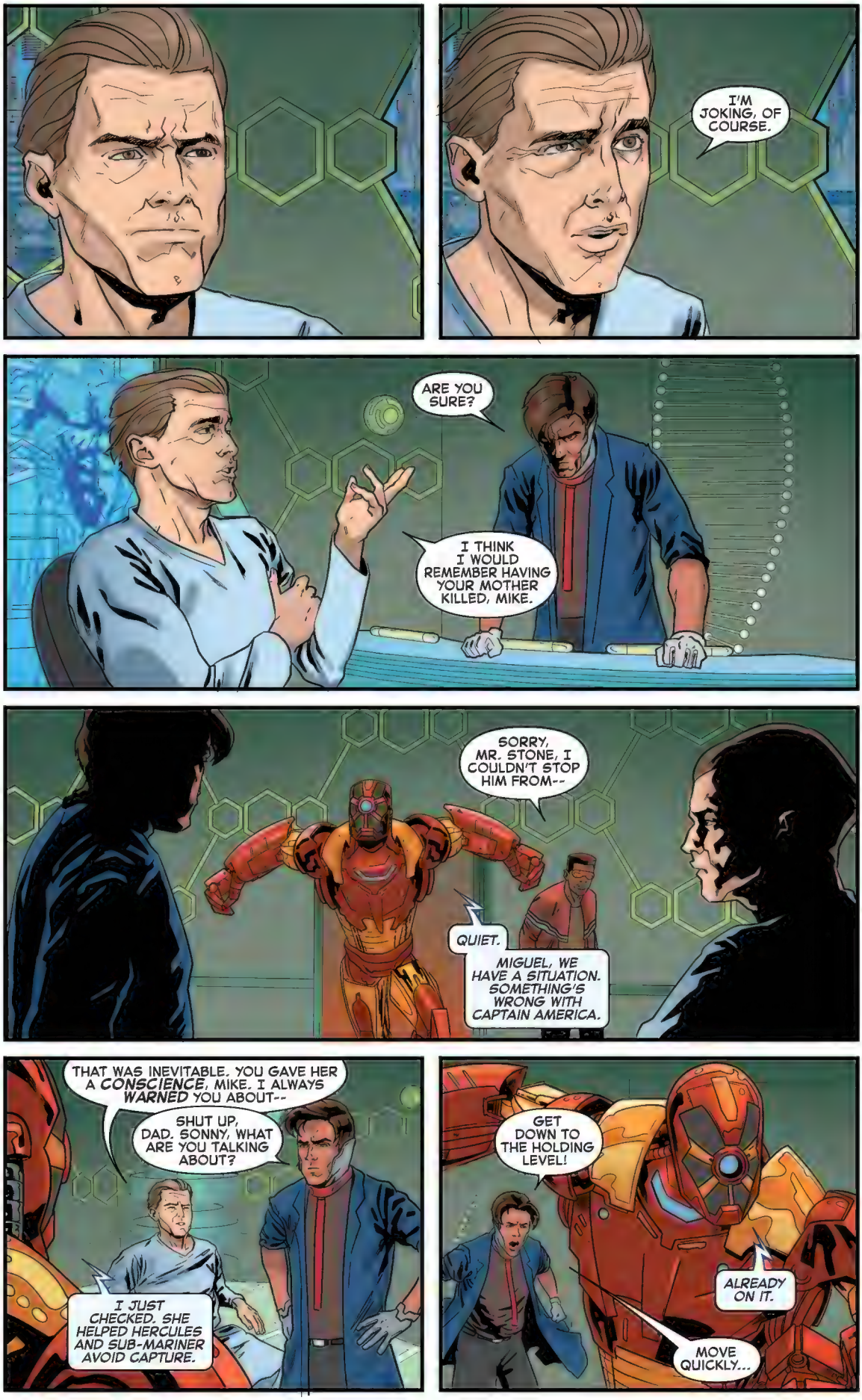
YOU OKAY, MR. FRISCO?
I've had better days...
IT'S ALL FALLING APART. ALL OF IT...
NO MORE AVENGERS. IT'S ALL GOING TO BE GONE.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! VISION, THE AVENGERS ARE FINE!
ROBERTA...
ROBERTA...? YOU MEAN THE CAPTAIN? WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE CAPTAIN?
I... I DON'T KNOW.
GET HARRY ON THE LINE! NOW!
AND FIND THE CAPTAIN!

MEANWHILE...
WE GOT HALF A DOZEN TRANQS IN HIM AND HE'S DRUNK! HOW IS HE STILL MOVING?!
WILL SOMEBODY ZAP THIS IDIOT?!
IT'S ALLLL GOING TO BE FINE, HERCULES. I SWEAR TO YOU.
COME DOWN TO MY ROOM AND I'LL MAKE IT ALL BETTER.
THAT SOUNDS...MOST TEMPTING, FAIR TANIA.
YOU'RE NOT GONNA EAT HIM, ARE YOU?
SHUT UUUUP, HAWKEYE...
HERCULES.
YES, CAPTAIN?
HIT HAWKEYE.
WAAAAM
OOOOOFF!
UNNHH!

ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?!
I GAVE THEM MY WORD THAT THEY COULD LEAVE. MY WORD HAS TO MEAN SOMETHING.
IT MEANS YOU SAID WHAT YOU HAD TO TO GET THEM IN HERE!
THIS IS WRONG, TANIA. YOU KNOW IT IS.
SHUNK!
I KNOW THIS IS GOING TO HURT YOU A LOT MORE THAN--
WAAAM
I IMPROVISED THAT.
SO I SEE. NICELY DONE.
EXCELLENT IDEA. WHERE?
GET ROMAN AND LET'S GO.
ANYWHERE BUT HERE.
GOOD. I WAS GETTING TIRED OF THIS PLACE. THEY TRIED TO STOP ME FROM DRINKING!
YES, WELL, WE'LL HAVE TO DISCUSS THAT.

I'VE INVITED YOU TO DINNER THREE TIMES THIS MONTH.
I'VE BEEN BUSY.
BUSY BLAMING ME FOR EVERYTHING YOU DON'T LIKE ABOUT YOUR LIFE?
I BLAME NO ONE, DAD. WE ARE WHAT WE ARE.
AND WHAT I AM IS THE MAN WHO MADE THIS COMPANY WHAT IT IS TODAY.
I FOUNDED THE AVENGERS. I DEVELOPED THE PROGRAMS THAT CREATED SUPER-POWERS.
I FOUND SONNY FRISCO AND HARNESSED HIS BRILLIANCE.
AND YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?
IT MEANS YOU SHOW UP TO BOAST ABOUT IT PERIODICALLY?
IT MEANS I SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN THE DIRECTION OF THIS COMPANY.
OR WHAT, DAD? BOTTOM LINE. IF YOU'RE NOT INVOLVED...
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT? KILL ME?
YOU MEAN LIKE I DID YOUR MOTHER?


I'M JOKING, OF COURSE.
ARE YOU SURE?
I THINK I WOULD REMEMBER HAVING YOUR MOTHER KILLED, MIKE.
SORRY, MR. STONE, I COULDN'T STOP HIM FROM--
QUIET.
MIGUEL, WE HAVE A SITUATION. SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH CAPTAIN AMERICA.
THAT WAS INEVITABLE. YOU GAVE HER A CONSCIENCE, MIKE. I ALWAYS WARNED YOU ABOUT--
SHUT UP, DAD. SONNY, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I JUST CHECKED. SHE HELPED HERCULES AND SUB-MARINER AVOID CAPTURE.
GET DOWN TO THE HOLDING LEVEL!
ALREADY ON IT.
MOVE QUICKLY...

"...THEY'LL GO AFTER THE SURFER AND HULK NEXT!"
OUR SECURITY FORCEFIELD SHOULD HOLD HIM!
WE BETTER *HOPE* SO! WE CAN'T LET HIM GET TO THE SURFER AND HULK!
MORE! BRING MORE!
HOW THE SHOCK IS HE DOING THAT?!
UP THE POWER!
I CAN'T! IT'S ON *MAXIMUM!*
YOU CAN DO IT, HERCULES! KEEP GOING!
I AM... ENDEAVORING TO...BUT IT IS... DIFFICULT TO--
DIFFICULT? YOU'RE A GOD! A PRINCE OF OLYMPUS!
DO YOU SERIOUSLY BELIEVE THAT SOME TOYS PRODUCED BY HUMANS CAN POSSIBLY STOP *YOU?*
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH! YOU CAN BE SLOWED, PERHAPS, YES. BUT STOPPED? NEVER!
AND YOU'RE GOING TO SHOW THESE PATHETIC HUMANS EXACTLY WHAT YOU THINK OF THEIR FORCE FIELD!
YOU WILL SHOW THEM--
--WHO-- YOU-- ARE!

ZWAAKOWWWW
GO. I SHALL BE...
...ALONG... IN JUST A FEW MOMENTS...

LET THEM GO!
WE...WE CAN'T! MR. STONE WOULD KILL US!
I ASSUME YOU'RE BEING METAPHORICAL, YES?
WERE I YOU, I'D BE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT LITERAL.
SHUT IT DOWN! ALL OF IT! THE INHIBITORS! EVERYTHING!
EXCELLENT
I KNEW THEY COULDN'T BE TRUSTED! THAT THEY'D MAKE US PRISONERS HERE!

YOU STINKIN' LIAR!
UH-OH.
IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, I'M HELPING YOU BREAK OUT OF HERE.
ALL OF YOU, FOLLOW HIM OU--
UNNHHH!
FWAZAAAK

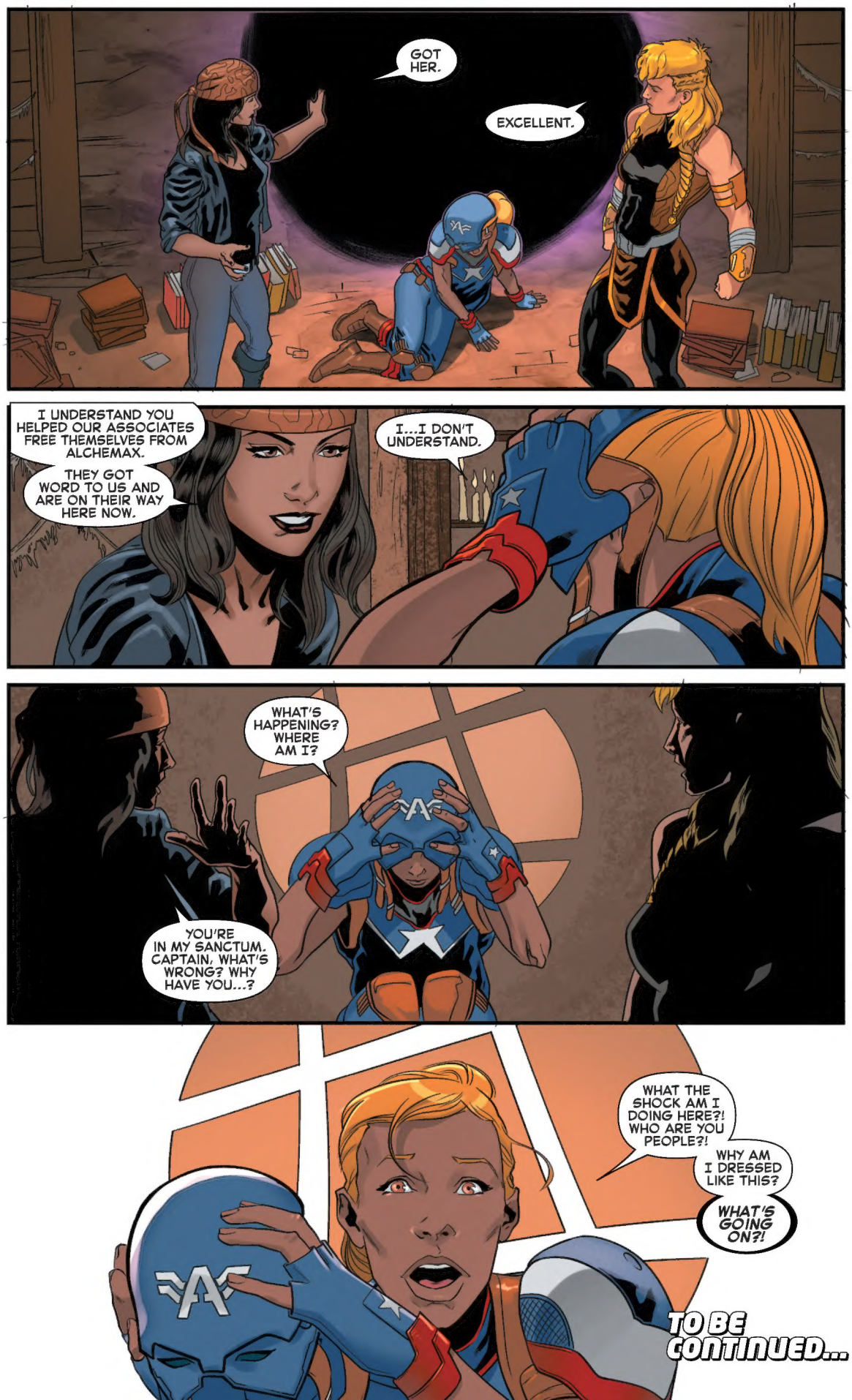
FREEZE! ALL OF YOU!
GO. GET OUT OF HERE. I'LL HANDLE HIM.
GO, I SAID!
YOU AREN'T GOING TO BE IN ANY SHAPE TO HANDLE ANYTHING, CAP.
STAND DOWN, IRON MAN. I'M WARNING YOU.
YOU'RE WARNING ME?

WELL, I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE SPORTING.
GET OFF ME!
KLANG
ARRHHH! KNOCK IT OFF!
KLANG
KLANG
ALL RIGHT! FINE!
KLANG
YOU WANT TO PLAY? WE'LL PLAY.
ZWAAAAK

THIS IS EXHILARATING! I HAVEN'T HAD THIS MUCH FUN IN AGES!
HEAD FOR THE WINDOW!
WHAT WINDOW?
THE ONE I'M ABOUT TO MAKE!
BLAKOOOOOOM
YEEEHAAAAA

YOU CAN'T KEEP THIS UP FOREVER, CAP!
I DON'T HAVE TO! I JUST NEED TO KEEP YOU BUSY LONG ENOUGH FOR THE OTHERS TO ESCAPE.
WHY? THIS IS INSANE!
NO! TREATING PEOPLE LIKE CRIMINALS SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY DON'T WORK FOR US IS INSANE!
BREAKING OUR PROMISES IS INSANE!
ALL RIGHT, MAYBE NOT INSANE, BUT UN-AMERICAN!
WE HAVE TO STAND FOR SOMETHING, SONNY! IF WE DON'T SUPPORT PRINCIPLES AND FREEDOMS AND IDEOLOGIES...
THEN WE'RE NOTHING! WE'RE JUST CORPORATE STOOGES! WE--
ROBERTA?
BOBBIE?

HARRY? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, HONEY?
YOU'RE DISMISSED.
DISMISSED.
NO. I'M...I'M STILL NEEDED... IT'S...YOU CAN'T...
BOBBIE, LISTEN TO ME VERY CAREFULLY:
HE'S THE BOOGIE WOOGIE BUGLE BOY FROM COMPANY B.
WHAT'S--?
FAIL-SAFE. IT'LL OVERRIDE ANY--
HI THERE. DON'T MIND ME.
STRANGE!
NO! WAIT!


GOT HER.
EXCELLENT.
I UNDERSTAND YOU HELPED OUR ASSOCIATES FREE THEMSELVES FROM ALCHEMAX.
THEY GOT WORD TO US AND ARE ON THEIR WAY HERE NOW.
I...I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHERE AM I?
YOU'RE IN MY SANCTUM. CAPTAIN, WHAT'S WRONG? WHY HAVE YOU...?
WHAT THE SHOCK AM I DOING HERE?! WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE?!
WHY AM I DRESSED LIKE THIS?
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
TO BE CONTINUED...

SECRET WARS 2099

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Hello, in here, out there, around the world and aboard all the ships at sea! Editor from the Future Devin Lewis reporting to you live and in-print from Marvel HQ in New York City!

SECRET WARS continues to rock the Marvel Universe – and the year 2099 is no exception! You folks out there in Mighty Marveldom have sent a bunch of letters our way about this particular series, so let´s dive right in!

PAD,
Pretty cool future stuff. Don´t know exactly what´s planned, but what about Peter David writing "The Mighty Defenders"? Why are the Defenders Mighty, again? Is Thor Odinson stopping by?!

Cheers,
Andrew J. Shaw

Hey, don´t rag on The Defenders! They´re mighty in any iteration, Andrew – ESPECIALLY when Peter David is writing ´em!

Team 2099,
If this doesn´t become an ongoing series, you will go down in history as the cruelest people ever. I am beyond hooked. I had big problems with Issue #1, but they were more than balanced out by the awesome stuff. By the end of Issue #2, I had forgotten why Issue #1 bothered me. I just want more, and I want it now.

Keep up the utterly amazing work!

Adrian W.
Melbourne, Australia

Always great to get a letter from down under, Adrian! Glad you stuck with us and are continuing to enjoy where we´re going. Be sure to grab SECRET WARS 2099 #5, because you won´t want to miss how Roberta´s story ends. If you thought Issue #4 was explosive, just wait until you read our next issue!

Important follow-up question for science: Because you´re south of the equator, do you read comics back to front?

I love everything so far! I must say however I am looking forward to 2 things: Spidey 2099 appearing, because I know for sure you will do this, and Captain America´s dual life becoming one. In the end I just wanna say: this comic is pretty great.
...But do you guys really like Hulk 2099 ´s hair (I kinda don´t.)?

Alexandru

I have the exact same haircut as Hulk 2099, Alexandru. Now I´m worried. Shoot.

Guess that´s it for this round, folks. I´m off to talk to my barber.

In the meantime – dig the cover to our next issue!

Over and out!
Devin
@edevinlewis

MINUTEMEN
Blutman